

FOREHOE and HENSTEAD  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

THE ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

and the

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR

for

1968



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FOREHOE AND HENSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
FOR THE YEAR 1968

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for 1968.

The Rural District of Forehoe and Henstead covers 69,335 acres and had an estimated mid-year resident population of 32,820, an increase of 1,620 persons over the previous year.

I am happy to be able to report that no great medical catastrophies or epidemics occurred during the year under review. Infectious disease in children appears to be well under control and with the advent of an effective measles vaccine we can hope that the incidence of this will also rapidly fall. Throat infections caused by haemolytic streptococci resulted in some loss of schooling but the previous complications we used to see such as rheumatic fever and nephritis seem to have been almost completely eliminated by the effective treatment with modern antibiotics. Bowel infections with salmonella organisms still cause outbreaks of diarrhoea from time to time and emphasise the constant need for care in food preparation, cooking and handling. The need for scrupulous cleanliness in food handlers is still all too frequently neglected.

The average age at death gets ever higher in this part of Norfolk in which we are lucky enough to live. Perhaps the stresses and strains are not so great here as in other parts; but there is still no cause for complacency. Concerning infectious diseases, we may justifiably boast that we are largely operating a National Health Service; but for many other avoidable complaints we are still all too happy to squander the great bulk of our financial resources devoted to medicine as a whole on a National Sickness Service, the hospitals devouring the vast majority available. The fault lies not with the personnel dealing with disease but to the lack of financial resources available to prove the root causes of those diseases which we believe are largely avoidable, if not completely, at least until a later age.

Those of us in the Public Health Service plug this theme and there is more than enough evidence to show that we are right. Yet scorning youth sheeplike, follows the bad examples of middle age and the not-so-young gradually drift into over-eating and inactivity. The middle age and elderly avoid what could be an uncomfortable discipline by burying their heads in the sand or by the pretence of a bold fatalism. Only a few grasp the nettle firmly in the hope of an active old age if not a prolonged one and the avoidance of being an unnecessary burden on others. Perhaps many more would take a more sensible course through life if they knew more about the maintenance of good health. Health education at a local level is indispensable for this purpose and there is still much to be done by small but enthusiastic groups disseminating information about preventive measures to all who are willing to listen and learn.

Environmental health services have been well and enthusiastically maintained by an ever efficient health staff. Conditions are often made hard by the breakdown of machinery, the difficulty of recruiting suitable staff, impossible weather conditions and the like, but the root cause is always a paucity of funds. This in turn, has also led to a slowing down of new projects, as all capital expenditure requires government approval - so much is the support of the National currency involved in council housing, extension of sewerage systems, better water supplies etc.

May I end this report as I did the one for 1967 by drawing your attention to the illegitimate birth rate. I do this because I feel that as the drip of water gradually impresses the stone so my little bit of propaganda for a subject which is still very much a taboo may gradually awaken our consciences to what I believe is largely a public responsibility. I believe the tragedy of illegitimate birth is one which should be completely avoided in this day and age and whatever the intimate causes of its occurrence its prevention by medical means is still being delayed by ignorance and lack of public demand for suitable preventive services. Sex education is still largely avoided in schools, one headmaster even going so far as to believe he would precipitate sex orgies if he allowed the subject in his co-educational school! If the animal is so near the surface in the children of our advanced, civilised society, then all the more reason for utilising every facility possible to prevent undesirable consequences and the mental anguish which is suffered by all concerned.

I am grateful to the Health Committee and their Chairman for their never-failing support and also to members of the Health Staff for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

R. D. Harland

Ber House,  
158 Ber Street,  
NORWICH, NOR 56B

FOREHOE AND HENSTEAD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL 1968

Table I GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	69,335
Estimated Resident Population	32,820
Rateable Value	£925,763
Sum Produced by a Penny Rate	£4,070

Table 2 LIVE BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	272	243	515
Illegitimate	12	18	30
Totals	284	261	545

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population - 16.6

Table 3 STILL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	2	2	4

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 of Total Births - 7.3

Table 4 TOTAL BIRTHS

	Males	Females	Total
Live	284	261	545
Still	2	2	4

Table 5 INFANT DEATHS

(a) Infant Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	2	4	6
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Totals	2	4	6

Infant Mortality Rates :

Total - 11.0 (per 1,000 live births)

Legitimate - 11.6 (per 1,000 live births)

Illegitimate - 0.0 (per 1,000 illegitimate births)

(b) Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants during the first four weeks)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	3	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) - 7.3

(c) Early Neo-Natal Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	2	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 live births) - 5.5

(d) Perinatal Mortality (Still births and deaths under 1 week)

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	4	7
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) - 12.7

Table 6 ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS

Males - 12      Females - 18      Total = 30  
(5.5% of total live births)

Table 7 MATERNAL DEATHS (Including abortion) - Nil.

Maternal Mortality Rate (per 1,000 total births) - 0.0

Table 8 DEATHS (All ages)

Males	Females	Total
216	212	428

Crude Death Rate (per 1,000 of Estimated Resident Population) - 13.0

Table 9 CAUSE OF DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR

Cause	Males	Females	Total
Pneumonia	1	1	2
Prematurity	1	2	3
Congenital Heart Disease	-	1	1
	2	4	6

Table 10 NOTIFICATION OF DEATHS RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR  
(According to Age Groups)

	Males	Females	Total
Under 4 weeks	1	3	4
Under 1 year	1	1	2
1 and under 5	1	-	1
5 " " 15	1	-	1
15 " " 25	1	-	1
25 " " 35	2	1	3
35 " " 45	2	1	3
45 " " 55	4	6	10
55 " " 65	30	13	43
65 " " 75	58	43	101
75 and over	115	144	259
 Totals	216	212	428

Table 11 CAUSE OF DEATHS (Registrar General)

Cause	Males	Females	Total
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
Malignant neoplasm - stomach	4	2	6
Malignant neoplasm - lung, bronchus	10	1	11
Malignant neoplasm - breast	-	4	4
Malignant neoplasm - uterus	-	2	2
Leukaemia	1	-	1
Other malignant neoplasms, etc.	25	16	41
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	1	2
Diabetes mellitus	2	1	3
Mental disorders	1	-	1
Other diseases of nervous system etc.	1	2	3
Chronic rheumatic heart disease	1	2	3
Hypertensive disease	2	-	2
Ischaemic heart disease	48	44	92
Other forms of heart disease	26	26	52
Cerebrovascular disease	27	37	64
Other diseases of circulatory system	12	21	33
Influenza	6	5	11
Pneumonia	19	17	36
Bronchitis and emphysema	13	8	21
Asthma	-	2	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	3	1	4
Other diseases of digestive system	1	3	4
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1	2
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	-	3
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	1	1	2
Diseases of musculo-skeletal system	-	2	2
Congenital anomalies	-	1	1
Birth injury, difficult labour, etc.	1	1	2
Other causes of perinatal mortality	-	1	1
Symptoms and ill-defined conditions	4	2	6
Motor vehicle accidents	1	1	2
All other accidents	-	4	4
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	1	-	1
All other external causes	1	2	3
Totals		216	212
			428

Table 12 SUMMARY OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Live Births (per 1,000 pop.)	(436)	(453)	(512)	(579)	(512)	(504)	(545)
Forehoe & Henstead R.D.	15.9	16.1	17.9	19.3	16.8	16.2	16.6
Area 5	-	-	-	-	15.8	16.3	16.1
England & Wales	18.0	18.2	18.4	18.1	17.7	17.2	16.9
Still Births (per 1,000 total births)	(8)	(14)	(6)	(5)	(17)	(6)	(4)
Forehoe & Henstead R.D.	16.2	29.9	11.5	8.5	32.0	11.8	7.3
Area 5	-	-	-	-	24.2	9.4	9.6
England & Wales	18.1	17.2	16.3	15.7	15.4	14.8	14.0
Crude Deaths (per 1,000 pop.)	(367)	(419)	(376)	(383)	(355)	(385)	(428)
Forehoe & Henstead R.D.	13.4	10.5	13.1	12.7	11.7	12.3	13.0
Area 5	-	-	-	-	11.8	12.5	13.3
England & Wales	11.5	12.2	11.3	11.5	11.7	11.2	11.9
Infant Mortality (per 1,000 live births)	(7)	(12)	(10)	(6)	(7)	(7)	(6)
Forehoe & Henstead R.D.	16.0	26.4	19.5	13.6	13.7	13.9	11.0
Area 5	-	-	-	-	14.2	14.6	13.0
England & Wales	21.4	20.9	19.9	19.0	18.9	18.3	18.0

NOTE: 1 - Figures in brackets are the actual numbers for Forehoe and Henstead R.D.

2 - Area 5 comprises Depwade, Forehoe & Henstead and Loddon R.D.'s., and Diss and Wymondham U.D.'s.

Table 13 CANCER DEATHS DURING LAST FIVE YEARS -

Forehoe and Henstead R.D.

Year	Male			Female		
	Deaths from all Causes	Total Deaths from Cancer	Deaths from Cancer of Lung	Deaths from all Causes	Total Deaths from Cancer	Deaths from Cancer of Lung
1968	216	40	10	212	25	1
1967	195	37	13	190	27	-
1966	172	25	8	183	30	1
1965	159	24	8	224	34	3
1964	188	41	15	188	27	1
Totals	930	167	54	997	143	6

Table 14 NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

(According to Age Groups - Forehoe &amp; Henstead R.D.)

	Under 1	1 - 4 years	5 - 14 years	15 - 24 years	Over 25	Total
Scarlet fever	1	8	4	-	-	13
Measles	4	133	163	5	3	308
Whooping cough	-	1	3	-	-	4
Pneumonia	-	1	-	1	1	3
Infective Jaundice	-	-	2	1	3	6
Dysentery	-	5	16	-	2	23
Food Poisoning	-	1	1	1	1	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	1	1
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	-	-	-	-	5	5
Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-	-	1	1
Meningococcal infection	-	-	3	1	-	4
Totals	5	149	192	9	17	372

Table 15 NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES DURING LAST FIVE YEARS -  
Forehoe & Henstead R.D.

	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Scarlet Fever	12	15	15	24	13
Measles	165	106	266	213	308
Whooping Cough	18	3	1	10	4
Pneumonia	20	22	16	6	3
Infective Jaundice	4	-	4	1	6
Erysipelas	5	1	-	2	-
Dysentery (Sonne)	1	2	37	-	23
Food Poisoning	3	-	1	3	4
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1	-	-	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	-	-	1	-
Tuberculosis, pulmonary	3	7	4	5	5
Tuberculosis, other forms	1	2	2	2	1
Encephalitis	-	-	-	1	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-	-	4
<b>Totals</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>372</b>

Table 16 VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Vaccination of children (under five years of age) during the year, resident in the District and Area 5, is shown in the following table.

	Forehoe and Henstead	Area 5
Number of live births	545	1234
Number of vaccinations	275	615
Percentage vaccinated	50	50

Table 17 BCG VACCINATION AGAINST TUBERCULOSIS

This is offered to all school children at the age of 13 years who do not react to the tuberculin skin test. The number of skin tests and subsequent BCG vaccinations in Forehoe and Henstead schools in the last five years is recorded.

	Year	% Accepted	Skin Tested	% Positive	Given BCG
Wymondham College	1968	91	103	3	98
	1967	90	106	30	74
	1966	77	108	35	68
	1965	72	120	29	81
	1964	82	182	25	128
County Grammar, Wymondham	1968	93	69	2	66
	1967	72	67	6	59
	1966	67	60	13	51
	1965	70	54	15	41
	1964	59	41	2	38
Costessey Secondary Modern	1968	83	79	5	66
	1967	78	93	11	77
	1966	81	75	5	68
	1965	67	49	-	43
	1964	72	88	5	84
Framingham Earl Secondary Modern	1968	95	58	6	48
	1967	96	50	-	47
	1966	86	58	5	55
	1965	85	43	19	35
	1964	69	39	8	36

Table 18 DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

The following is the number of primary immunisation and booster injections given during the year in respect of Area 5.

Under 1	PRIMARY			BOOSTERS			Total
	Age 1 - 4	Age 5 - 15	Total	Age 1 - 4	Age 5 - 15		
409	540	52	1,001	509	722		1,231

Table 19 VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The following is the number of primary immunisations and boosters given in Area 5 during the year.

PRIMARY		BOOSTERS	
0 - 3 years	4 - 15 years	0 - 3 years	4 - 15 years
962	63	179	603

Table 20 IMMUNISATION AGAINST WHOOPING COUGH

The following is the number of whooping cough immunisations recorded in Area 5 during the year.

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS
Under 1	Age 1-4	Age 5-15	Total	Under 5
402	531	15	948	594

Table 21 IMMUNISATION AGAINST TETANUS

The following is the number of tetanus immunisations recorded in Area 5 during the year.

PRIMARY				BOOSTERS	
Under 1	1 - 4	5 - 15	Total	1 - 4	5 - 15
411	547	184	1142	516	752

Table 22 NEW BUILDING

Houses erected in 1968				
By Council		13		
By Private Building		361		
		—		
Under construction at end of 1968		374		
By Council		24		
By Private Building		296		
		—		
320		—		
Private building during last 5 years				
1968	1967	1966	1965	1964
361	279	365	403	305

Table 23 COUNCIL HOUSING AND THE WAITING LIST

	1968	1967
<b>Waiting List</b>		
No. of applicants at 31.12.68	424	500
<b>Analysis of Waiting List</b>		
Small unit families	363	432
Large unit families	61	68
<b>Note:</b>		
Small unit families are those suitable for 1 or 2 bedroomed dwellings and consist largely of married couples with 1 child or 2 children of the same sex.		
Large unit families mainly represent those with more than 2 children over the age of 8 of opposite sex.		
<b>Local Authority Houses:</b>		
<b>Position at 31st. December, 1968</b>		
Pre-war	878	878
Post-war	1250	1238
	—	—
	2128	2116
	—	—

Table 24 DATA ON COUNCIL HOUSE IMPROVEMENT

Total number of pre-war houses	878
Number with complete amenities	420
Number without hot water system	458
Number being modernised	28
Number being planned	181
Total number of houses in which modernisation is neither completed, in process, nor planned.	239

N.B. All Council houses have water laid on, a sink indoors and an electricity supply.

Table 25 DATA ON COUNCIL OWNED BUNGALOWS FOR THE ELDERLY  
as at 31.12.68

Types	1 bedroom	60
	2 bedrooms	31
		—
		91
		—
	Number modernised	71
	Number where modernisation in progress	nil
	Number being planned	20
	Number awaiting sewer	8
		—
		99
		—

Table 26 DETAILS OF OLD PEOPLE'S CLUBS

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Meeting Place</u>	<u>Day and Time of Meeting</u>
Barnham Broom	Village Hall	Tuesday (alt.) 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Bawburgh	Village Hall	Thursday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Braconash	Reading Room	Tuesday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
New Costessey	Scouts Hall	Thursday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Old Costessey	Parish Room	Thursday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Deopham	Church Room	Tuesday 2.15 - 4.30 p.m.
Hethersett	Methodist Chapel	Wednesday 2.30 - 5.00 p.m.
Hingham	Lincoln Hall	Thursday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Marlingford	Village Hall	Thursday (alt.) 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Mulbarton	Wingfield Hall	Wednesday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Poringland	Village Hall	Thursday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Rockland St. Mary	Margaret Mack Hall	Thursday (alt.) 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Saxlingham Nethergate	Village Hall	Thursday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Shotesham	Village Hall	Thursday (alt.) 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Surlingham	Parish Hall	Tuesday (alt.) 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Trowse	Church Room	Thursday 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.
Wrenisham (with Ashwellthorpe)	Ashwellthorpe Village Hall	Thursday (alt.) 2.30 - 4.30 p.m.

Table 27 AVAILABILITY OF THE COUNTY WELFARE OFFICERS

Headquarters	:	Local Health Office, Area No. 5, Aspland Road, Riverside Road, Norwich	Monday to Friday - 8.45 a.m. - 5.30 p.m.
Hingham	:	C/O Mrs. Rosbrook, 51 Norwich Road.	Monday - 2.30 p.m. - 3.00 p.m.
Wymondham	:	Council Offices, Middleton Street.	Friday - 2.30 p.m. - 3.30 p.m.

Table 28 COUNTY COUNCIL CHILD WELFARE CENTRES

<u>Centre</u>	<u>Where Held</u>	<u>Day of Month</u>
Bawburgh	Village Hall	last Tuesday )
* New Costessey	Methodist Church, Norwich Road	3rd. and last )
Old Costessey	Parish Hall	Tuesday )
* Cringleford	Patteson Club	2nd. Tuesday ) Medical
Hethersett	Methodist School Room	3rd. Wednesday ) Officer attends
* Hingham	Lincoln Hall	1st. and 3rd. ) Tuesday regularly
Mulbarton	Wingfield Hall	3rd. Tuesday )
* Poringland	Parish Hall	1st. Wednesday ) 3rd. Wednesday )
Newton Flotman	St. Mary's Hall	2nd. Wednesday )
Morley St. Botolph	Village Hall	last Wednesday )
Rockland St. Mary	Margaret Mack Hall	last Tuesday ) Medical
Saxlingham Nethergate	Village Hall	2nd. Tuesday ) Officer
* Shotesham	Trinity Hall	2nd. Wednesday ) attends
* Upper Stoke Holy Cross	St. George's Hall	2nd. Thursday ) occasionally
Wicklewood	Village Hall	1st. Friday )
Little Melton	Church Hall	1st. Thursday )

All Centres are held from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

\* Indicates that National Welfare Foods are available

Table 29 AVAILABILITY OF NATIONAL WELFARE FOODS

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Addresses at which National Welfare Foods are obtainable</u>
New Costessey	: Mrs. J. Dynes, 3 Upper Stafford Avenue
" "	: Mr. D. W. Boon, Kabin Road Stores
Old Costessey	: Mr. D. J. Briggs, Grocer, 6 The Street
Hethersett	: Mrs. Thraxton, "Thornley", Gt. Melton Road
Morley	: Mrs. Ruthven, Post Office
Stoke Holy Cross	: Mr. Elsey, Post Office



T H E      A N N U A L      R E P O R T

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for the year ended

31st. December, 1968

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1968.

The year will be remembered for the event which took place in September when a number of parishes suffered serious flooding after many hours of very heavy rain. The parishes most seriously affected were Newton Flotman, Saxlingham Nethergate, Saxlingham Thorpe, Shotesham and Trowse Newton and to a lesser degree other parishes including Framingham Pigot, Hethersett, Mulbarton and Wramplingham.

Over 50 houses were flooded to depths varying between 6" and 4' 6" and in the worst cases serious damage was done not only to the contents but also to the structure and a number of families were rendered homeless for several days. In addition, food premises, including a grocer's and a butcher's shop and a flour mill were seriously affected. Main roads were rendered impassable, bridges were washed away and communications seriously dislocated. The matter was treated as an emergency and in addition to local help, the public health department organised assistance for clearing affected houses and other premises including the removal and destruction of damaged goods. The drying out of dwellings was carried out mainly with the assistance of hot air machines supplied by the Royal Air Force.

Later in the year claims were dealt with and forwarded for consideration by the Norfolk County Council Flood Relief Fund Committee. Parishioners in the villages most seriously flooded have, naturally, pressed for action by the various Authorities concerned to prevent a recurrence and both the Highway and the River Authorities have the matter under investigation.

Other than the above event, the year proceeded under normal conditions. The only change in staff occurred when Mr. R. M. Secker took up an appointment in June as a Public Health Inspector with the Dunmow Rural District Council.

My Report must now continue under the main heading "Sanitary Circumstances of the Area".

## WATER SUPPLIES

There has been no serious disruption of water supplies for domestic purposes either from mains or private sources other than those affected by the previously mentioned flooding. Individual complaints regarding quality have, of course, been received but these applied in most cases to private wells which each year get less in number as more and more dwellings are modernised and connected to a mains supply.

During the year 46 samples were taken and from the following table it will be seen that more than half were found to be unfit. In all such cases the necessary action was taken and the properties concerned were provided with a satisfactory supply or action was proceeding at the end of the year.

	<u>Number taken</u>	<u>Fit</u>	<u>Unfit</u>	<u>Doubtful</u>
Chemical	2	2	-	-
Bacteriological	44	20	22	2
—	—	—	—	—
	46	22	22	2
—	—	—	—	—

Public mains water supplies are available in all parishes with the exception of isolated pockets of dwellings. The Norwich Corporation are the principal suppliers and their statutory area of supply extends well into the district. Other supplies are obtained from Wymondham Urban District Council, Mitford and Launditch and Wayland Rural District Councils.

## SEWERAGE AND CESSPOOL EMPTYING

Details of the progress made during the year with public sewerage schemes are given in the report of the Engineer and Surveyor. Despite this progress, the work carried out by the cesspool emptying service continued to increase in so far as private properties were concerned. There has been, however, a decrease in the number of visits and in the number of loads of sewage removed from Council Estates and Public Plants, so that the overall position for the year showed a decrease. It remains to be seen in the next few years whether this annual decrease is maintained, so that consideration can be given to a re-assessment of the problem. It has been the Council's policy to reduce as much as possible the burden falling on private individuals for the cost of cesspool emptying by making substantial contributions from the general rate fund and also by free emptying of alternate loads from properties where five or more loads have been removed during a specified six monthly period. It is, therefore, necessary to operate this service as economically as possible in so far as the number of

vehicles and workmen are concerned and this must at times necessitate some delay in emptying, for there is no way of controlling the flow of orders from private sources.

The following are details of cesspool emptying carried out during the year:-

Cesspool Emptying

	Visits (1967)	Visits (1968)	Loads Removed (1967)	Loads Removed (1968)
Private	2697	2850	3992	4026
Council Estates				
and Sewage Plants	821	639	2323	1621
Outside District	102	94	127	133
	—	—	—	—
	3620	3583	6442	5780
	—	—	—	—

The disposal of cesspool contents removed by the Council's service is mainly by discharge into public sewers. This is of course the most convenient and hygienic method of disposal but is expensive by reason of the fact that the discharge takes place into the Norwich Corporation sewers for which charge is made and necessitate long haulage.

After the severe flooding at Saxlingham Nethergate as mentioned in my opening remarks, it was necessary to clean out the lower half of the Saxlingham Watercourse and Sewer Ditch. This was the only work carried out during the year in this category.

NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL The continued progress of sewerage schemes in the district has again reduced the overall number of properties receiving a night soil collection service, but additional properties including 37 in the Wymondham Urban District to be added to the Scheme will tend partly to balance out the decrease. When it is possible to operate this service with one vehicle only, a reasonable reduction in the total cost will be made but at the moment the rounds are of such a nature that two vehicles are necessary. Disposal of night soil is by discharge into sewers.

Whilst reporting on this service I feel I must draw attention to the rather ridiculous situation under existing legislation whereby vehicles operating this service, especially during hours of darkness, are not legally entitled to be fitted with flashing lights, as is allowed for road service, police and breakdown vehicles, etc. It would however, appear that the police are sympathetic towards this position and in order to safeguard not only the public but our own employees, flashing lights have been fixed to the vehicles engaged on this service.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of household and trade refuse continued throughout the district and only the very isolated properties are not covered by this service. The volume of household refuse continues to increase rapidly and the ever growing quantity of plastic containers makes disposal more difficult. It is the common rule rather than the exception for dwellings to have more than one dustbin, and even in cases where means of disposal for certain types of household refuse are available, propaganda and appeals to the public do not meet with any satisfactory response. It is therefore considered more economical for the time being at any rate, to use the larger type of compression collection vehicle, and the Council's fleet of 7 vehicles now contains 4 vehicles capable of serving approximately 500 dwellings each per load.

The 'skep' back door collection is still in operation and whilst this may not be considered the most satisfactory because it often creates spillage and dust, it is much more preferable from the hygienic aspect than 'kerbside' collection.

Included in the Council's refuse collection service are three hospitals, a private nursing home, three colleges and several large schools. The quantity of refuse from such premises often requires special collections. Excess large type refuse is collected on request at a nominal charge of 10/- per visit and arrangements are available for abandoned cars etc., to be taken to the Council's Depot or Tips for disposal through Scrap Metal Dealers.

The Paper Sack Pilot Scheme has continued in the Costessey area and with the inclusion of a further 70 houses supplied with plastic bin-liners, there is now a combined total of nearly 700 dwellings. There is no doubt whatsoever that these methods of storage and collection for household refuse have great advantages over the dustbin method, being more hygienic especially for the collectors, and if operated on a larger scale would be more economical financially. It is hoped that extensions to the pilot scheme can be put into operation fairly soon.

For disposal purposes, two main tips are in use at Cringleford and Hackford and these cover the whole district but mean rather long hauls from certain parts of the area. It would be advantageous to have a disposal point in or nearer to the Costessey area where the largest bulk of refuse is collected but at the moment no suitable tipping space is available.

The Cringleford pit has less than another year of life and arrangements are in hand to lease suitable tipping space in a pit near the Council's Central Depot. Here again, the life of this pit is not expected to be more than 5 years, depending upon the quantity of refuse put into it. Looking ahead it seems that a policy of Regional Collection and Disposal or, perhaps, in the first instance two or three Authorities joining together, must now seriously be considered and these are the lines on which the Norfolk Group Working Party on Refuse Collection and Disposal is drafting its recommendations.

There is one other very serious problem for which it is difficult at the moment to find a satisfactory solution, namely, the fouling of lay-byes and, in fact, many miles of road verges with litter of all sorts. Many hours are spent by the Council's workmen in clearing up this type of litter and it is noted that this problem is most serious in those parts of the area adjacent to the city boundary.

It is common knowledge that many householders in the built-up areas accept as a natural thing that they should fill the boots of their cars with surplus refuse and dump in some convenient ditch or hedgerow. The fact that one person has deposited litter in a certain spot quickly creates the proverbial 'snowball'. Is it to be wondered that serious doubts exist as to the effectiveness of present legislation and propaganda? It would seem that the only way to bring this home to the public is to strengthen the law and constantly bring it to the notice of the public by television and other means which seem to find time and space to carry out intensive propaganda and advertising on much less important matters.

#### HOUSING

Whilst the main aim of all housing authorities must continue to be the clearance of unfit dwellings, and I use the word unfit instead of the old word slum which to me does not seem so applicable in a rural area. The clearance of unfit dwellings need not necessarily mean demolition but should include an effort to remedy unfitness by making more use of the Improvement Grant legislation. At the same time however, it has been found that present day costs of repair and improvement often rule out the saving of many dwellings and this, coupled with the high value of building land, has resulted in quite a large number of older type dwellings being demolished to make way for re-building on the sites, in fact, in several of the larger parishes in the district this latter method of clearing dwellings without statutory action by the Council has resulted in a higher amenity level in the parishes concerned.

The question of making 'Improvement Areas' has been adjourned until more information is available from parishes recently sewered, but it would appear that the Ministry expects all authorities to consider such schemes, however small, and there are indications that the new housing legislation promised for 1969 will further increase local authority's responsibility in this respect, in addition encouraging further efforts by owners to improve individual properties.

Improvement Grants have again played an important part of the Council's housing policy, and despite the general tendency for a drop in figures there was in this area, a small increase as compared with the previous year as shown in the following table.

	<u>Standard</u> (1967)	<u>Standard</u> (1968)	<u>Discretionary</u> (1967)	<u>Discretionary</u> (1968)	<u>Totals</u> (1967)	<u>Totals</u> (1968)
Applications received	30	31	26	29	56	60
Units concerned	31	37	28	33	59	70
Applications approved	28	30	26	26	54	56
Units concerned	29	33	28	30	57	63
Owner/occupier dwellings	21	19	18	18	39	37
Dwellings let	8	14	16	12	18	26
Total amount of grants approved	£6,159		£7,238	£9,141	£9,690	£15,300
						£16,928

Discretionary grants refused : 1

Applications in abeyance : 3

Since 1949 when improvement grants first became available, the Council have approved 748 Discretionary grants and 363 Standard grants, providing a total of 1,277 modernised units of accommodation which, in my opinion, is a very good contribution towards the total number of dwellings in the district which now have modern amenities.

#### CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960

During the year 13 licences were issued for sites used for the standing of single caravans. In some cases, these were for families to live in temporarily on the site on which they were erecting a new dwelling. Of the 55 licensed sites in the district 5 have standings for 5 or more caravans; the largest is for a maximum of 16 caravans. No district seems to be free of the occasional standing of caravans on unauthorised sites and these mainly refer to the itinerant dealer and perhaps the odd gypsy family or two who are 'working' the area and who eventually leave after pressure by the department or the owners of the land concerned. In some cases this involves the help of the police.

Road lay-byes have also been used by this type of caravan dweller and there is no quick way of dealing with the matter. New legislation has been drafted by the Ministry which makes the County Council responsible for the

provision of a site for gypsies and a network of such sites over the country as a whole would ease the problem and would also strengthen the local authority's means of dealing with unauthorised sites.

The Council's Caravan Park at Tower Hill, Costessey continues to function satisfactorily and provides good accommodation for 28 families. The demand for standings on this site has decreased and the proposed extension of the site may be found to be unnecessary.

#### OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

The following table is an abstract of the details submitted to the Ministry:-

##### Registration and General Inspection

<u>Class of Premises</u>	<u>Premises Registered during year</u>	<u>Total number Registered</u>	<u>Registered Premises receiving general inspection</u>
Offices	-	14	14
Retail Shops	1	37	37
Wholesale shops and warehouses	-	2	2
Catering establishments open to public	-	1	1
Fuel storage depots	-	4	4

##### Inspection of registered premises

Visits of all kinds by inspectors	-	78
--------------------------------------	---	----

#### FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955 FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

236 inspections of food shops were made in addition to regular visits in connection with the larger establishments where meat and poultry are slaughtered and prepared for human consumption.

The catering arrangements at the Royal Norfolk Show also came under strict supervision for compliance with the fairly high standard set for the catering firms and standholders where food is being prepared. It is pleasing to note that although in a few cases food samples upon analysis were found to be unsatisfactory, the overall position and the standard of hygiene generally were good.

In the latter part of the year attempts were being made to step up inspections of poultry at the three larger establishments in the district and the 1969 Report will give more information.

The general standard of food premises in the district was satisfactory and there was no need to take any statutory action to remedy infringements.

#### PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The details given at the end of this section show a small reduction in the number of complaints received from householders during the year, whilst the number of properties found necessary to treat as a result of complaints and survey work was almost identical to the previous year. This would appear to favour the argument that the present service which employs one vermin destroyer is adequate to cope with the district as a whole and therefore it is unnecessary to consider any alteration in the present arrangements. It should be borne in mind however, that this report refers to the amount of work one operator is able to deal with and covers only private dwellings and the smaller business premises, and this cannot include surveys and treatment of agricultural properties and land. Consequently, there is no evidence to hand as to the general position in the district. One can only accept what is stated by the Ministry, that they are not satisfied with the position and feel that local authorities should carry out fully their duties under the Act, meaning of course, that all properties, including agricultural, should be surveyed.

The following table shows the number of properties inspected and treated during the year:

Number of properties inspected:

(a) by notification	-	378
(b) by survey	-	4039

Number of properties treated - 606

## MEAT INSPECTION

There are now only 3 licensed slaughterhouses in the district, the occupier of the smallest of the original 4 having ceased to trade. The premises are constantly under supervision and are also the subject of annual inspections by the Veterinary Service of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. All slaughterhouses have continued to operate satisfactorily and there has been no cause for serious complaint except in connection with difficulties over drainage which discharges into the public sewer from the largest of the premises and caused serious nuisance from smell. Efforts are in hand to improve the arrangements.

All animals slaughtered were inspected and the meat passed for human consumption was officially stamped in accordance with the Regulations.

One full-time Meat Inspector is employed and is able to deal with most of the meat. The Public Health Staff assist when necessary, including holidays and week-end rota. (Saturday a.m.)

The total number of animals slaughtered shows a substantial increase over the previous year, due entirely to the number of pigs slaughtered.

There has again been no change in the general pattern of percentages and reasons for condemnation, except in the case of Cysticercosis for which cause there was a substantial drop in the numbers.

All condemned meat is disposed of through authorised disposal plants with the exception of that which is intended for medicinal and veterinary purposes.

SUMMARY OF ANIMALS KILLED AND INSPECTED AND DETAILS OF CARCASSES AND PARTS CONDEMNED

<u>Cattle</u> (excluding cows)	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	-	<u>Total</u>
3,033	1,288	117	1,020	56,589	-	62,047

STATISTICS OF MEAT CONDEMNED AS REQUIRED BY THE MINISTRY

<u>All diseases</u> <u>Ex. Tuberculosis</u> <u>and Cysticerci</u>	<u>Cattle</u>	<u>Cows</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep &amp; Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>
Whole carcasses condemned	4	3	10	5	.40
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	995	421	29	114	53,22
Percentage of number inspected, affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	30.05%	30.06%	24.78%	11.16%	10.63%

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	617
Percentage of number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	1.09%

Cysticercosis

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	14	2	-	4	-
Carcasses treated by refrigeration	14	2	-	-	-
Generalised and condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Details of meat condemned:

BEEF

1 Cow	(Acute Septic Mastitis)	1 Steer	(Septic Arthritis)
1 Cow	(Emaciation)	1 Steer	(Peritonitis/Toxaemia)
1 Cow	(Tumours)	1 Steer	(Pyaemia)
		1 Steer	(Tumours)

VEAL

3 Calves	(Septicaemia)
3 Calves	(Immaturity)
3 Calves	(Emaciation)
1 Calf	(Septic Enteritis)

MUTTON

1 Sheep	(Tumours)
1 Sheep	(Extensive Injuries)
1 Sheep	(Anasarca)
2 Sheep	(Emaciation)

PORK

1 Pig	(Lymphadenitis)	1 Sow	(Fevered)
4 Pigs	(Fevered)	1 Sow	(Emaciation)
1 Pig	(Uraemia)	1 Sow	(Septicaemia)
2 Pigs	(Jaundice)	1 Sow	(Septic Metritis)
5 Pigs	(Emaciation)	2 Sows	(Pyaemia)
9 Pigs	(Pyaemia)	1 Sow	(Septic Arthritis)
2 Pigs	(Acute Erysipelas)		
1 Pig	(Septic Pneumonia)		
1 Pig	(Immaturity)		
3 Pigs	(Septicaemia)		
2 Pigs	(Carcinoma)		
1 Pig	(Septic Peritonitis)		
1 Pig	(Septic Pleurisy)		

	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Total weight of carcases condemned	3	10	2	9
Total weight of parts of carcases and offal condemned	34	4	1	18
Total weight condemned :	37	14	3	27

## KNACKER'S YARD

There is one licensed knacker's yard in the district and generally speaking, there has been no serious cause for complaint until the latter part of the year when it was found that the requirements in connection with the use of lairages were not being complied with. The owner of the knacker's yard was warned that the matter would be further considered when his licence came up for renewal.

Included under the Regulations which apply to knacker's yards are The Meat (Staining and Sterilisation) Regulations, 1960 which give certain exemptions from staining or sterilisation of knacker's meat where it is intended for processing establishments. When it is realised how difficult it is to keep proper track of such meat, this causes great doubts as to the wisdom of such exemptions. Knacker's yards also receive meat and waste, some unfit, from slaughterhouses and in my opinion meat of any type which is unfit for human consumption should not leave the slaughterhouse until it has been sterilised and no meat of any kind whatsoever should leave the knacker's yard unless it has been sterilised except in cases where it is needed for specific purposes and such other feeding purposes as the Ministry may lay down. In any case there should be no in between dealer concerned with the removal of this type of meat.

FACTORIES ACT, 1948 and 1961

The following tabulated details are in accordance with the Return required by the Ministry:-

<u>Premises</u>	<u>Number on Register</u>	<u>Inspect- ions</u>	<u>Written Notices</u>	<u>Occupiers Prosecuted</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections, 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authority	20	10	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	96	68	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	-	-	-	-
<b>Totals : </b>	<b>116</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>

Cases in which defects were found

Sanitary Conveniences, Section 7

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
(a) Insufficient	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-
	—	—
	1	1
	—	—

Outwork

<u>Nature of work</u>	<u>No. of outworkers in August list required by Sec.110</u>	<u>No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises</u>
Wearing apparel - making etc.	12	-
Brush making	-	-
Cosaques, Christmas Crackers	-	-
Christmas Stockings, etc.	3	-
	—	—
	15	-
	—	—

## PETROLEUM ACTS (REGULATIONS) 1928-1936

I think it is worthwhile to mention this section of the department's duties although why the Public Health Officer should still be burdened by such legislation is hard to understand. This, in my opinion, is a matter which should be the responsibility of the Fire and/or Police Services, in fact, in all large municipalities this is the case.

However, this continues to take up quite a lot of time at a certain period in the year and inspections must be made when new installations are being carried out in order to see that tanks, pumps and fittings comply with the Regulations.

At the end of the year there were 128 licensed premises in the district. This figure is made up of 35 garages and premises where petrol is sold to the public and the remainder are private premises such as farms and other business premises for petrol used in their own vehicles.

## GENERAL

I have dealt with the main sections of the work of the Public Health Department but there are many other matters which come within the province of our duties. Among them are, Noise Abatement, Infectious Disease, Cemeteries, Animal Boarding Establishments, Scrap Metal Dealers, Agriculture (Safety, Health and Welfare) Act, 1956, Food Poisoning Outbreaks, etc. There is also the responsibility for the general supervision, maintenance and repair work to all Council vehicles at the Council's Central Depot.

## SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS

Housing	1619	Factories Act	17
Public Health Acts	352	Animal Boarding Establishments	10
Flood Damage	263	Knacker's Yard	7
Water Supplies	68	Petroleum Acts	38
Drainage	67	Smoke Nuisances	2
Public Cleansing	420	Offices, Shops & Railway Premises Act	78
Infectious Disease	299	Agriculture (Safety, Health & Welfare) Act, 1956	24
Slaughterhouses, Meat & Poultry Inspections	272	Noise Abatement	17
Housing Improvement Grants	1066	Disinfections & Dis- infestations	1
Cemeteries	71	Food Poisoning	15
Pest Control	22	Caravans	258
Scrap Metal Dealers' Act	16	Miscellaneous	272
Civic Amenities	14		
Food & Drugs Act & Food Hygiene Regs.	236		
			5,524

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I would say that up to September there had been no outstanding event to record and the department's work, although always increasing as new legislation comes into operation, maintained steady progress. However, in September, as already mentioned at the beginning of this report, an event took place the like of which this district had not seen in the last 50 years, namely, the sudden flooding of certain parishes and I would like to express my thanks to the members of my staff who dealt so ably with this emergency.

I also wish to thank the Medical Officer of Health, Dr. R.D. Harland, for his support during the year and the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee for their continued interest in public health work.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

GEOFFREY A. J. BROWNE, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector



R E P O R T

OF THE

ENGINEER & SURVEYOR

for the year 1968

WATER SUPPLY

There are public water supply mains in every parish in the district. 26 Parishes are within the Statutory Water Supply Area of the Norwich Corporation. The Council is the Supply Authority for the remaining 16 Parishes.

The greater part of the water supplied by the Council is purchased in bulk from adjoining Authorities. Small quantities for local distribution are derived from the Council's own Headworks at Newton Flotman and Kimberley.

The estimated population in the Council's water area is 8,100.

Water Mains Extension

During the year an extension comprising some 270 yards of 3" pipes was put in to serve a new private housing site at Wicklewood.

Newton Flotman, Flordon and Saxlingham Thorpe Water Supply

In July the 8" link main constructed last year between Swainsthorpe and Newton Flotman was put into commission, bringing a bulk water supply to the Newton Flotman area from the mains of the Norwich Corporation. The small headworks at Newton Flotman is now kept as an emergency stand-by only.

SEWERAGE

Comprehensive public soil sewerage systems are maintained in Costessey, Cringleford, Hethersett, Hingham, Poringland (including Upper Stoke Holy Cross, parts of Framingham Earl and Caistor St. Edmund), Newton Flotman, Saxlingham Nethergate, Flordon and Trowse. In addition, some of the Council Housing Sites over the district are sewered with outfalls to small sewage disposal plants.

The Council operates public sewage disposal works at Costessey, Hingham, Poringland, Saxlingham and Stoke Holy Cross. The flow from the parishes of Cringleford, Hethersett and Trowse is by agreement piped to the sewers of the Norwich Corporation.

The estimated aggregate population served by sewers is 16,500.

#### Stoke Holy Cross and Swainsthorpe Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

This scheme, which comprises the sewerage of the two parishes, and the construction of four pumping stations and a disposal works was substantially completed this year.

#### Mulbarton, Swardston and Braconash Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Work on this scheme commenced in March and fair progress was maintained throughout the year.

#### Council Housing Site Sewerage

Surlingham In order to provide sewerage facilities so that 14 pre-war houses at Walnut Hill and South View, Surlingham could be improved, work was started this year on a scheme which comprises the laying of 6" sewers, the construction of a small pumping station and rising main to lift the flow to the existing sewer at Greens Croft and the enlargement of the existing sewage disposal plant.

#### NEW BUILDING

New building work in the district has continued at a similar level to that of recent years. 1968 saw a slight increase over 1967 in the number of plans deposited for Town Planning and Building Regulation purposes. The following shows the number over the last 4 years:

1965: 1210 1966: 1178 1967: 1146 1968: 1164

388 private houses and 16 Council houses were completed during the year and at the 31st. December 296 private and 29 Council houses were under construction.

12 Appeals were made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government against the Council's refusal of planning permission and disposed of by the Minister as follows:-

<u>Proposals</u>	<u>Appeals</u>	<u>Dismissed</u>	<u>Allowed</u>
Residential Development	7	4	3
Retention of Temporary Building	1	-	1 *
Modernisation and Improvement of building	1	-	1
Advertisement	1	1	-
Agricultural Engineering			
Workshop	1	1	-
Coal Depot	1	1	-

\*Conditional permission for retention of building until December, 1969.

The work of inspecting and supervising work for the purposes of the Building Regulations has proceeded satisfactorily and the good relations between the Council's building control officers and builders operating in the district have been maintained. No formal action in respect of infringements of the Regulations has been necessary, remedies having been obtained in all cases by informal approach.

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WILLIAM A. JONES, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H.

Engineer and Surveyor

## WATER SUPPLY

Number of connections to mains  
in Councils water supply area

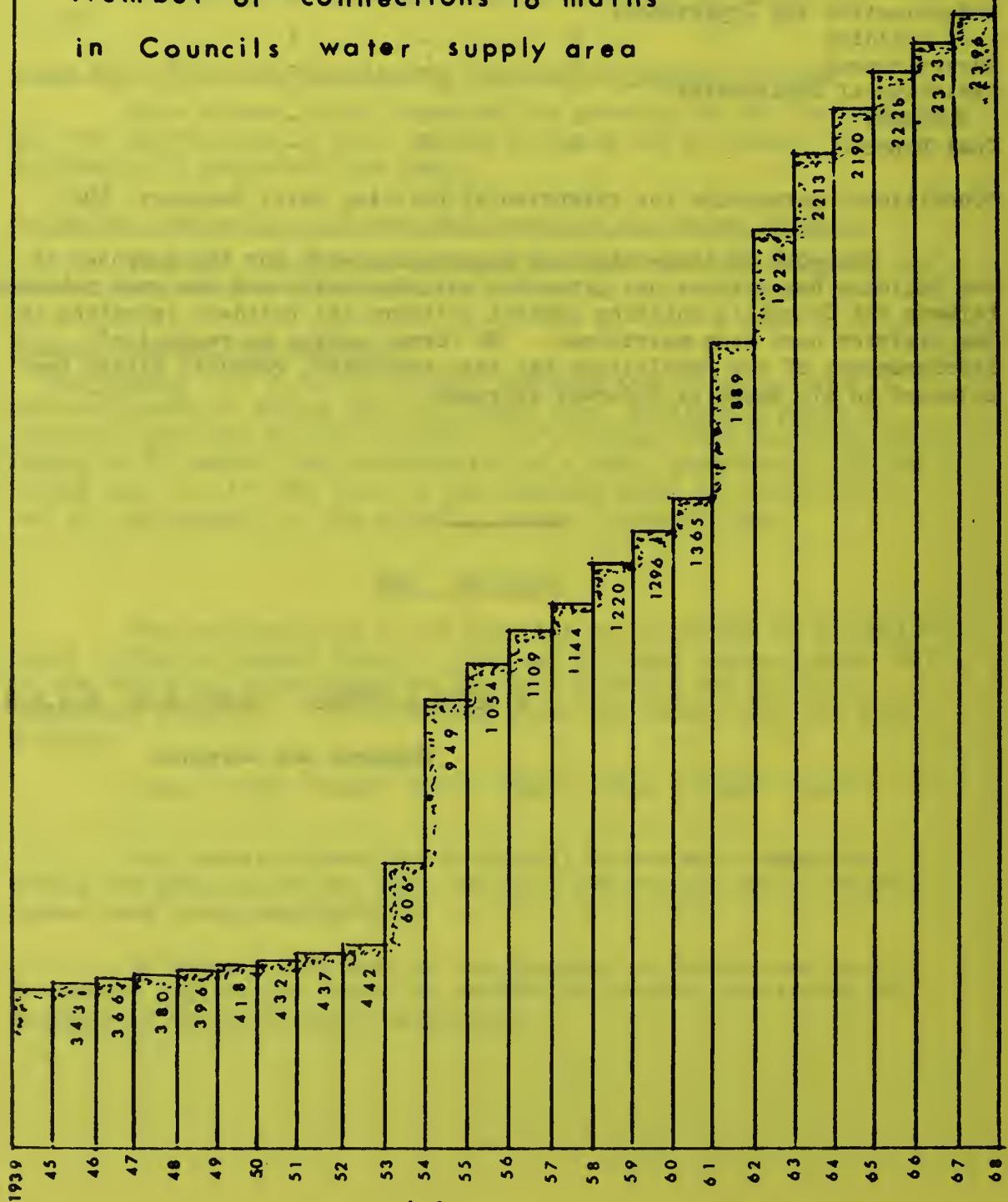


FIG. 1

PROPERTIES CONNECTED TO SEWERS  
(including sewers discharging to Council housing  
site sewage disposal works )

No. of properties in the district: 11492

Proportion on main drainage: 48 %

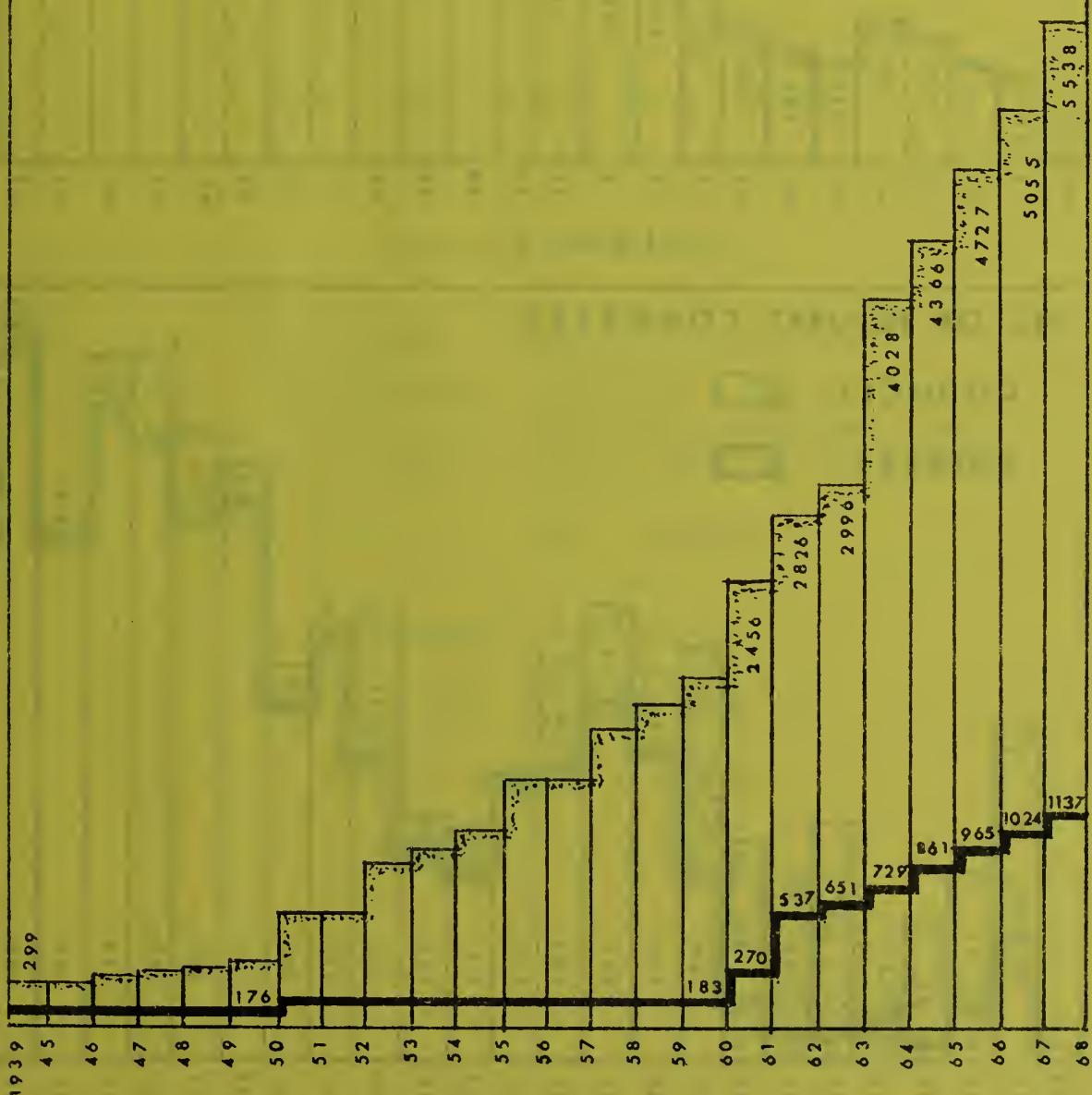


FIG. 2

# TOWN PLANNING & BUILDING REGULATION APPLICATIONS

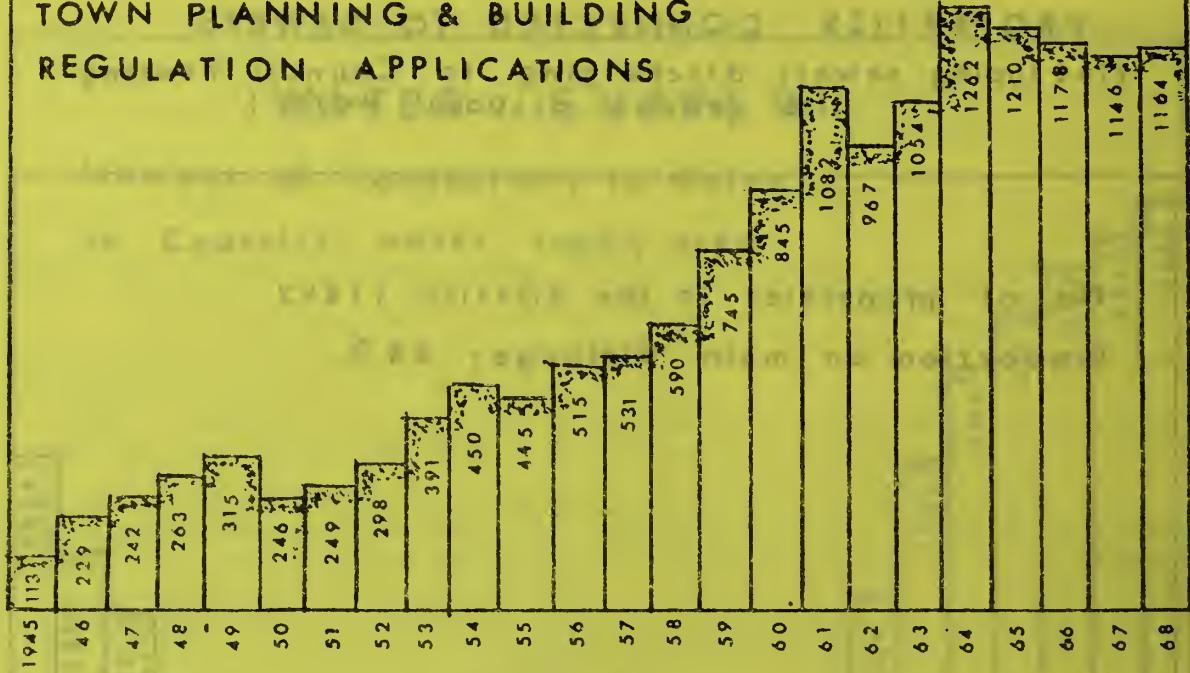


FIG. 3

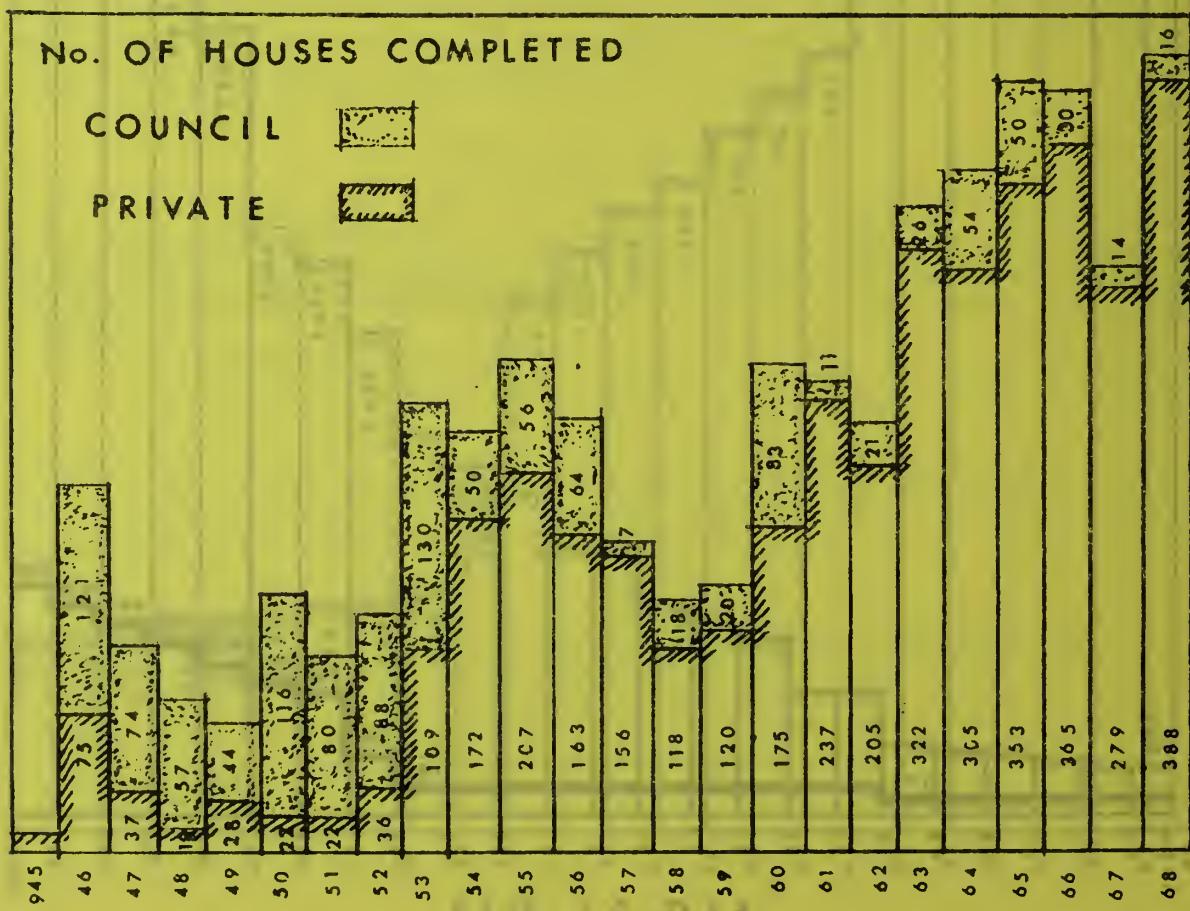


FIG. 4

S T A F F

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Dr. R. D. Harland, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.T.M.& H., D.P.H.

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

G. A. J. Browne, F.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

B. G. B. South, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

R. Stevenson	M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
F. Douglas	M.A.P.H.I.
D. O. Harradine	M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
R. Secker	M.A.P.H.I. (until May, 1968)
D. J. Spencer	Student Public Health Inspector

D. Jonas                    Meat Inspector

ENGINEER & SURVEYOR

W. A. JONES, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.H.

DEPUTY ENGINEER & SURVEYOR

G. Siree, M.I.Plant E.

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